

## ***Site Name: Soper Avenue Ground Water Site***

### **REGION 5.....Community Involvement Plan for Emergency Response Sites**

**Location:** Rockford, Illinois **Site ID #** C595

**U.S. EPA On Scene Coordinator:** Brad Benning, 312-353-7613, benning.bradley@epa.gov

**U.S. EPA Community Involvement Coordinator:** Cheryl Allen, 312-353-6196, allen.cheryl@epa.gov

**U.S. EPA Office of Regional Counsel:** Thomas Krueger, 312-886-0562, krueger.thomas@epa.gov

**U.S. EPA Press Officer:** Francisco Arcaute, 312-886-7613, arcaute.francisco@epa.gov

Toll-free: 800-621-8431, 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m., Monday – Friday.

**U.S. EPA Address:** 77 W. Jackson Blvd. (SR-7J), Chicago, IL 60604-3590

#### **State Contacts/Other Agencies Involved:**

##### **Illinois EPA**

Project Manager: Mark Wagner, 217-524-1662, mark.wagner@illinois.gov

Rockford Regional Manager: Dave Retzlaff, 815-987-7414, dave.retzlaff@illinois.gov

Community Relations Coordinator: Carol Fuller, 217-524-8807, carol.fuller@illinois.gov

Communications Manager: Maggie Carson, 217-558-1536, maggie.carson@illinois.gov

##### **Illinois Department of Public Health**

Rockford Regional Supervisor: Clay Simonson, 815-987-7511, clay.simonson@illinois.gov

##### **Winnebago County Health Department**

Environmental Protection Supervisor: Todd Marshall, 815-720-4118, tmarshall@wchd.org

Community Relations Coordinator: Sue Fuller, 815-720-4213, sfuller@wchd.org;

Center for Environmental Health Improvement Director: Larry Swacina, 815-720-4101, lswancia@wchd.org

##### **Winnebago County Soil and Water Conservation District**

Executive Director: Bradley Holcomb, 815-965-2392, Ext. 3, bholcomb@wincoil.us

Winnebago County Chairperson Scott Christiansen, 815-319-4225, schristiansen@wincoil.us

##### **City of Rockford**

Public Works Director: Tim Hanson, 815-987-5634, timothy.hanson@rockfordil.gov

Water Superintendent: Tim Holdeman, 815-987-5738, tim.holdeman@rockfordil.gov

Community Services Director: Jennifer Jaeger, 815-987-8047, jennifer.jaeger@rockfordil.gov

Construction and Development Head: Todd Cagnoni, 815-967-6769, todd.cagnoni@rockfordil.gov

##### **Rockford Park District**

Capital Planning Department: Tim Bragg, 815-987-8865, timbragg@rockfordparkdistrict.org

Risk Management Department: Pete Stankiewicz, 815-987-1665, petestankiewicz@rockfordparkdistrict.org

Natural Area Maintenance Coordinator: Nathan Hill, 815-987-1596, nathanhill@rockfordparkdistrict.org

##### **Northwest Community Center**

Executive Director: Jim Peterson, 815-964-6885, Ext. 222, jimp@northwestrockford.org

**Description of the Site:**

The area of concern is located in the northwest side of Rockford, Winnebago County, Illinois. The scope of the area includes private wells in the area of Johnston Avenue to the West; Alliance Avenue to the East; Auburn Street to the South; and Parkside Avenue to the North. It also includes the source investigation area, which is the area to the southwest of the area of private well contamination (as far west as N. Day and south of Auburn Street).

**1. General Information****Directions to Site from Chicago/Region 5 or nearest Airport:**

Start out going east on W. Jackson Boulevard toward S. Federal Street. Take the 1st right onto S. Federal Street. Take W. Congress Parkway (W. Congress Parkway becomes I-290 W / IL-110 W / Chicago-Kansas City Expressway / Eisenhower Expressway W. Merge onto I-90 W / I-94 W / Kennedy Expressway W toward Wisconsin. Keep left to take I-90 W via EXIT 43B toward O'Hare-Rockford. Take I-90 W / Jane Addams Memorial Tollway Merge onto I-39 S / US-51 S toward US-20 / Rockford. Merge onto US-20 W / Ulysses S. Grant Memorial Highway Take the Montague Road exit. Turn right onto Montague Road / CR-27. Take the 1st left onto Springfield Avenue. Turn right onto Auburn Street.

**Information Repository:**

Rockford Public Library 815-965-7606, press 2  
Rockton Centre Branch  
3112 N. Rockton Ave.  
Rockford, IL 61103

**Hours**

Monday - Thursday: 12:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.  
Friday: 10:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.  
Saturday - Sunday: CLOSED

Branch Manager: Dunarene Hopson

**Location of POLREPs and Dates:** <http://www.epaosc.org/SoperAvenueGroundwater>

**Date of First:** 10/28/11 **Second:** 1/6/12 **Date of Last:**

Will site cleanup take more 120 days? YES

**2. Media Contacts****Newspapers**

*The Rock River Times*, 128 N. Church St., Rockford, IL 61101  
Contact for ads: Jeanne Schaeffer, Advertising Sales Representative  
Contact for press releases: Frank Schier, Editor  
**Phone:** 815-964-9767  
**Fax:** 815-964-9825  
**E-mail:** [contact@rockrivertimes.com](mailto:contact@rockrivertimes.com)  
Published weekly on Wednesdays. Deadline for ads: Thursday at 4 p.m.

*Rockford Register Star*, 99 E. State St. Rockford, IL 61104  
Contact for ads or press releases: Shelly Arnett, Sales Executive  
**Phone:** 815-987-1311  
**Fax:** 815-962-9544  
**E-mail:** [sarnett@rrstar.com](mailto:sarnett@rrstar.com)  
Published daily. Deadline for ads: 2 days before

### **Radio Stations**

**WGFB 103 FM** (Light Rock Format) **WRTB 95.3 FM** (Everything Format) **WNTA 100.5 FM & 1330 AM** (Talk Format)  
**WXRX 104.9 FM** (Rock Format)

2830 Sandy Hollow Road

Rockford, IL 61109

**Phone:** 815-874-7861

**WGFB E-mail:** <http://www.b103fm.com/ContactUs/messages.aspx>

**WRTB E-mail:** <http://www.953bobfm.com/ContactUs/TellBob.aspx>

**WNTA E-mail:** <http://www.nta.fm/OnAir/KenDecoster.aspx>

**WXRX E-mail:** <http://www.wrx.com/ContactUs/messages.aspx>

**WNIJ 89.5 FM** (News Format) **WNIU 95.5 FM** and **105.5 FM** (Music Format)

801 N. First St.

DeKalb, IL 60115

**WNIJ News Phone:** 815-753-7000

**WNIJ News E-mail:** [nprnews@niu.edu](mailto:nprnews@niu.edu)

**WROK 1440 AM** (News Talk Format) and **WXXQ 98.5 FM** (Country Format)

3901 Brendenwood Road

Rockford, IL 61107

**Phone:** 815-399-2233

**Fax:** 815-484-2432

**WROK E-mail:** [Scot.Bertram@1440wrok.com](mailto:Scot.Bertram@1440wrok.com) (Scot Bertram – Program Director)

**WXXQ E-mail:** [steve@q985online.com](mailto:steve@q985online.com) (Steve Summers – Program Manager)

**WFEN 83.3 and 103.3 FM** (Christian Format)

4721 South Main St.

Rockford, IL 61102

**Phone:** 815-964-9336

**Fax:** 815-964-0550

**E-mail:** [fred@wfen.org](mailto:fred@wfen.org)

### **Television Stations**

**WREX Channel 13 (NBC)**, P.O. Box 530, Rockford, IL 61105

**News Director:** Peter Speciale [pspeciale@wrex.com](mailto:pspeciale@wrex.com)

**News Line:** 815-335-2710

**News Fax:** 815-335-2297

**News E-mail:** [news@wrex.com](mailto:news@wrex.com)

**WTVO Channel 17 (ABC)** and **WQRF Channel 39 (FOX)**, 1917 N. Meridian Rd., Rockford, IL 61101

**News Director:** Kent Harrell [kharrell@wtvo.com](mailto:kharrell@wtvo.com)

**News Line:** 815-963-2773

**News Fax:** 815-963-0029

**News E-mail:** [newsdesk@wtvo.com](mailto:newsdesk@wtvo.com)

**WFIR Channel 23 (CBS)**, 2523 N. Meridian Road, Rockford, IL. 61101

**News Director:** Dave Smith [dave.smith@wifr.com](mailto:dave.smith@wifr.com)

**News Line:** 815-987-5330

**News Fax:** 815-987-5333

**News E-mail:** [news@wifr.com](mailto:news@wifr.com)

### 3. History of Site and Area

The Winnebago County Health Department and the Illinois Department of Public Health worked together to collect samples from private wells in the area on three occasions during June, August and September after being informed of fuel-like odors from private well water. Contaminants discovered in some private wells are from a family of chemicals known as volatile organic compounds, or VOCs, that are commonly found in fuels such as gasoline, diesel and home heating fuel. The most recent set of well water samples was taken on September 14, 2011. Twenty-five wells have been tested in all, some more than once.

Current assessment results indicate that four residences exceed the MCL for benzene of 5 ppb. Additionally, other VOCs were detected including ethyl benzene, xylene, toluene. The IEPA is continuing their investigation to determine the potential source of the contamination, with the installation of various monitoring wells to determine groundwater direction, and potential contaminant sources.

### 4. City Officials

U.S. EPA OSCs have maintained contact with representatives from the city of Rockford in addition to working with the city of Rockford staff listed under "State Contact/Other Agencies Involved" in the beginning of this document.

**Larry Morrissey, Mayor**                      815-987-5590      larry.morrissey@rockfordil.gov  
City of Rockford  
425 E. State St., 8th Floor  
Rockford, IL 61104

**Bill Timm, 9<sup>th</sup> Ward Alderman**      815-962-7592 (Home)      Bill.Timm@rockfordil.gov  
1711 Carney Ave.  
Rockford, IL 61103

**Derek Bergsten, Fire Chief**              815-987-5645      derek.bergsten@rockfordil.gov  
204 S. First St.  
Rockford, IL 61104

**Chet Epperson, Police Chief**              815-987-5839      chet.epperson@rockfordil.gov  
420 West State St.  
Rockford, IL 61101-1288

### 5. Congressional Interest (State and/or Federal)

#### State:

**Senator Dave Syverson**                      815-987-7555  
200 S. Wyman St., Suite 302  
Rockford, IL 61101

**Representative Charles E. Jefferson**      815-987-7433      staterepchuck67@aol.com  
200 S. Wyman, Suite 304  
Rockford, IL 61101

**Representative Dave Winters**              815-282-0083  
3444 N. Main, Suite 80  
Rockford, IL 61103

**Federal:**

**Senator Dick Durbin**            312-353-4952    <http://www.durbin.senate.gov/public/index.cfm/footer-contact?p=contact>  
230 S Dearborn St., Suite 3892  
Chicago, IL 60604

**U.S. Senator Mark Kirk**       312-886-3506    [http://kirk.senate.gov/?p=comment\\_on\\_legislation](http://kirk.senate.gov/?p=comment_on_legislation)  
230 South Dearborn St., Suite 3900  
Chicago, IL 60604

**U.S. Representative Donald Manzullo**    815-394-1231    <http://manzullo.house.gov/Contact/ZipAuth.htm>  
415 S Mulford Road  
Rockford, IL 61108

***Section B: Community*****1. Community Involvement**

On December 7, 2011, EPA and Illinois EPA met with area residents affected by the contamination about connecting their homes to a public water supply. Seven residents were present. At that time, EPA also assessed citizen concerns.

**2. Citizen Concerns**

The major concern of the community was who would pay for the water connection. People wondered if EPA would pay for a plumber to come in during the connection process to make sure that the water hook up is done correctly. They were also concerned about whether their existing water system would be compatible with the connection EPA would be putting in to connect to city water. People also questioned how long it would take and said they would like a timetable for when the work would be done.

Additionally, residents/well users in the area of ground-water contamination expressed concerns about potential health problems resulting from exposure to the fuel-related contamination.

**3. Environmental Justice/Brownfields/ Issues?    Yes****4. Information Distribution****Letters to Community:**

U.S. EPA Letter mailed on November 23, 2011 to residents with homes affected by the contamination explaining U.S. EPA's offer of connection to a public water supply.

News Releases Issued: None

**Fact Sheets/Leaflets Issued:**

Illinois EPA Fact Sheet entitled *Northwest Rockford Area of Fuel Contaminated Groundwater*, October 2011  
The fact sheet described background information about the discovery of the contamination and information on the type of contamination, the results of the sampling conducted to date, and contact information. This fact sheet was mailed out on November 23, 2011 to approximately 260 homes in the area (including the area of homes with impacted wells) and about 30 officials.

U.S. EPA Flyer inviting residents to an open house mailed on November 23, 2011 to residents with homes affected by the contamination being offered connection to a public water supply.

**Mailing List Established:** October 2011

**Repository Established:** December 2011 (See location listed under Section 1)

**Public Meetings and Dates Held:** Open House held on December 7, 2011 for those with wells affected by the contamination about connecting their homes to a public water supply. Experts from EPA, Illinois EPA, Illinois Department of Public Health, Winnebago County Health Department and City of Rockford were also available to answer questions about what's being done to find the source of the ground-water contamination and what the potential health risks are, as well as what will be done to clean it up.

**Location of Public Meetings:**

Winnebago County Health Department  
555 N. Court St.  
Rockford

Contact: Sue Fuller, 815-720-4213, sfuller@wchd.org

**Newspaper Ads Placed:**

**Media Calls/Stories Printed/Radio Interviews/Electronic Media Aired:**

Article in *The Rock River Times* published on October 13, 2011

"IEPA confirms well water contamination" The article explains the results of the ground-water testing and efforts made to investigate the source of the contamination.

Article in *The Rock River Times* published on September 22, 2011

"Former employees: Amerock had blatant disregard for environment around the factory" The article explains the history of the Amerock facility and practices at the plant as described by former employees.

**Future Community Involvement Activities:**

EPA and Illinois EPA plan to prepare an update fact sheet or letter to residents explaining the results of the investigation.

Public meetings or availability sessions will be held as warranted.

**TO BE COMPLETED BY CIC AND OSC when cleanup is done**

Summary of Site/ Closeout/ When Completed \_\_\_\_\_

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Comments: \_\_\_\_\_